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General and complete disarmament: establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 8 September 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (see annex), which was adopted at the ceremony of the signing of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006.

The new nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia will be unique in many ways. First, this zone will include a State that used to possess nuclear weapons. Second, for the first time ever, a nuclear-weapon-free zone will be established in the Northern Hemisphere. Third, the Treaty is the first multilateral agreement in the area of security that covers all five Central Asian States. Finally, for the first time ever, a nuclear-weapon-free zone is being established in a region that has an extensive common border with two nuclear-weapon States. We wish to emphasize the fact that for the first time, a process of drafting and agreeing on a new nuclear-weapon-free zone was conducted with the direct involvement and under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Treaty not only will promote the security of the States parties but also will become an important confidence-building measure and an instrument of cooperation at the regional level.

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We would appreciate it if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under agenda item 90 (bb) and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Nurbek **Jeenbaev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sirojidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 8 September 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Central Asian States: the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Stressing the determination to make a joint contribution to the strengthening of peace and security on the basis of Article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),

Being of the view that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes, in a significant way, to the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security at the global and regional levels,

Convinced of the importance of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as a means for achieving the effective implementation by the States of the region of the NPT, which is a cornerstone of global disarmament and non-proliferation,

Expressing the hope that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia will help to overcome the crisis in the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation process over the recent years,

Considering the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies falling into the hands of non-state actors, primarily, terrorists,

Convinced also that the establishment of the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone represents further universalization and strengthening of the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Noting the development by the States of the region of an extensive political and legal framework for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, based on the Almaty Declaration of the Heads of State of the Central Asian States adopted on 28 February 1997; the Tashkent Statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia dated 15 September 1997; and the Communiqué of the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian States, the Nuclear-Weapon Countries and the United Nations adopted at Bishkek on 9 July 1998,

Noting also that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is based on the relevant provisions of the Final document of the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament as well as

on the principles and guidelines for the establishment of such zones adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session,

Noting further the importance of consultative meetings, held by the States of the region and the nuclear-weapon countries during the drafting of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, in accordance with the above-mentioned principles and guidelines,

Guided by an understanding that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is a dynamic process and *stressing* the willingness of the States Parties to the Treaty to promote further cooperation with the parties involved,

Noting with appreciation the support of the initiative to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia by all United Nations Member States, including the five nuclear-weapon countries, as reflected, inter alia, in the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and decisions, entitled "The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia", the documents of three Review Conferences of the Parties to the NPT and their preparatory sessions as well as the Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, on 26 to 28 April of 2005,

1. *Declare with satisfaction* that the preparatory process has been completed and that the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia has been signed;

2. *Emphasize* the role of the United Nations, which has directly participated, for the first time ever, in drawing up and agreeing on a draft treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone and in this context *express their appreciation* to the United Nations Secretary-General, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the Office of Legal Affairs and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

3. *Welcome* the support by the nuclear-weapon countries of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones throughout the world and in this context express readiness to continue consultations on a number of provisions of the Treaty and *call* on those countries to become Parties to the Protocol to the Treaty;

4. *Reaffirm* the willingness of the Central Asian States to participate in the process of consultations among the zones, established in accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Treaty of Rarotonga, the Bangkok Treaty and the Pelindaba Treaty, to promote cooperation and coordination between them and their relevant organizations and other States involved;

5. *Urge* the States and international organizations with experience and expertise in the field of clean-up and disposal of radioactive contaminants to assist the Parties to the Treaty in the remediation of serious environmental effects of uranium mining and nuclear-fuel-cycle activities in the production and testing of nuclear weapons;

6. *Express their intention* to introduce a joint draft resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled "The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia", at the upcoming sixty-first session of the General Assembly and *call* on the Member States of the United Nations to support that draft resolution.

Semipalatinsk, 8 September 2006